subject. Their suggestions are being examined and it is hoped that it will soon be possible to supply the missing link.

8. Turning to the expenditure side I should say at once that the revenue expenditure of Rs. 2198.38 lakhs gives only a partial view of the programme before us. Under Capital I have budgeted for a huge sum of Rs. 940.23 lakhs. Taking the two sections together the total expenditure contemplated in the next year's budget amounts to Rs. 3138.61 lakhs excluding Loans and Advances, which is the highest amount ever budgeted for. The maximum amount which has been budgeted for in the past is only Rs. 2777.67 lakhs in 1955-56.

In drawing up this programme I have given top priority to the schemes included in the Second Five Year Plan. Broadly speaking, full allotment has been made for achieving the financial targets fixed for the first year. I have already given an over-all idea of what we propose to do under the Plan. It only remains for me to indicate in more detail some of the main features of the programme we have drawn up.

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IRRIGATION.

9. *Major Irrigation.*—Out of the six major irrigation projects included in the State's First Five Year Plan, Thottapally Spillway under Kuttanad Development Scheme and Perunchani have been completed. The other four *viz.*, Peechi, Chalakudi First Stage, Vazhani and Neyyar are in advanced stages of completion. All these projects are expected to be completed next year and necessary provision has been made in the Budget Estimates for 1956-57 towards their spill over to the Second Plan period.

Under the Second Five Year Plan of the State, seven major irrigation projects calculated to benefit a total area of about 1,53,000 acres have been included and of these, the following are proposed to be taken up next year.

	Acreage expected to be benefited
Neyyar Scheme II Stage	19,100
Chalakudi II Stage	20,250
Cheerakuzhi Scheme	4,000
Periyar Valley (Bhoothathankettu) Scheme	63,300

[Shri A. J. John]

The second stage of the Neyyar scheme envisages the construction of the left bank channel of 24 miles and branch channel of 75 miles to irrigate 19,100 acres in Neyyattinkara and Vilavancode Taluks at a cost of Rs. 105 lakhs. The second stage of the Chalakudi Project aims at the construction of main channels of 17 miles and 61 miles of branch channels to irrigate 20,250 acres. The estimated cost of its execution is Rs. 60 lakhs. The Cheerakuzhi scheme estimated to cost Rs. 47.34 lakhs is designed to take advantage of the storage of the Mangalam Scheme of the Madras State for irrigating nearly 4,000 acres of wet lands in Talappally Taluk. The Bhoothathankettu Scheme would benefit about 63,300 acres in Muvattupuzha and Kunnathunad Taluks. It involves the construction of a diversion weir in the Periyar at Bhoothathankettu to lead water to the left bank through main and branch channels. The total outlay on the scheme would be of the order of Rs. 348 lakhs.

Medium Irrigation.—Besides the major irrigation projects, a number of irrigation works which are now classified as medium irrigation has been undertaken during the first plan period. Special mention may be made of Vilathura scheme, the opening of a 'thodu' from Muvattupuzha river to Vadayar kari lands, etc. A larger number of such medium irrigation works is proposed to be taken up next year under the Second Five Year Plan. Altogether nineteen new items of such works distributed all over the State, are provided for in the next year's budget.

Lift Irrigation.—Provision is made in the budget estimates for the next year not only to complete the 26 items of new lift irrigation works taken up this year, but also for taking up fourteen new lift irrigation works. Further the Vamanapuram and Kallada schemes are now under investigation.

COMMUNICATIONS.

10. As regards communication facilities, Travancore-Cochin has always been ahead of the rest of India. The target originally fixed under the First Five Year Plan for special surfacing and construction of new roads, has already been exceeded. Of the thirteen bridges included in the First Plan, four *viz.*,

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